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From: Vernon Crawford [vacrawford@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 19, 2008 1:51 PM
To: Vernon Pickup-Crawford
Subject: Education Update for 4/19
Attachments: 2008MovingReport4-19-08.pdf; SCGIReport4-19-08.pdf

As a following up to earlier this morning, the House adjourned at 2:17am, completing its special order calendar. The House goes back into session Tuesday at noon. No new education issues came up since our last report 13 hours ago although the House will consider next Tuesday its trio of bills--HB7095, 7097, 7099--that focus on the State Board of Administration investment fund.

Attached are the updated tracking charts of bills we're following...the "Moving" file is a list of 77 bills on calendar, in messages or likely to be on calendar this week.

The traditional (which this session has proved to be not) expectation is that the House and Senate will continue to take up special order bills this week. Next week, the last week, will be devoted only to those on 3rd reading or in messages. Also, starting this week, committees can convene on a 2-hour notice if needed. The only education-related committees are the House Policy and Budget Council, Monday at 1pm and whose agenda is not out yet, and Senate Education Appropriations for K-12 on Tuesday morning. By May 1, only messages are up and conference reports such as the budget.

Conference committee meeting times have been reserved for Monday at 5pm and Tuesday at 8am and 5pm (the committee level is to end by 6pm Tuesday when unresolved issues get bumped up to Council chairs, then Thursday/Friday to Speaker/President. As we are all aware, however, council chairs have already met informally and we've heard some details of the "settlement". So far, no official notice has gone out for Monday afternoon.

Of significant interest and some good news:

The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee passed out HR5613 ("Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008") which now contains an amendment to further delay the CMMS repeal of Medicaid claiming for school districts to April, 2009 (the moratorium is set to expire in June). Rep. Joe Barton of Texas, the Committee's ranking member, has pledged to get fellow Republicans to override a veto if the President does such...providing the bill gets to the White House. This bill is up for full House vote sometime between Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon.

I would ask Board members and others who may know our local Congressional members to email or call their D-C offices on Monday in strong support. This is a significant expense that only adds to district revenue problems if we lose the federal funding. Your calls would be appreciated. We will work with our colleagues as well in seeking House approval.

Vern
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